

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 63-68 were originally presented for consideration in this divisional application after preliminary amendment. Claim 64 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 63 and 65-68 are currently pending in this application.

The following rejections were set forth in the Office Action:

1. Claims 63-65, 67 and 68 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,308,782 to Brooks et al.; and
2. Claims 63-68 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,752,211 to Dewey et al.

Independent claim 63 has been amended above to recite that a drifting apparatus is conveyed into the wellbore junction with the deflection device. The drifting apparatus is operative to expand a leg of the wellbore junction. Neither the Brooks patent nor the Dewey patent describes or suggests these limitations now in claim 63. Therefore, the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of claim 63 and its dependents.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all of the claims pending in this application are now seen to be in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of claims 63 and 65-68 is therefore earnestly solicited.

The examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 516-0030 if such would expedite the prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450,

on DECEMBER 23, 2004
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